

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete at page 1, after the title, the sub-heading and add the following sub-headings and paragraph:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of PCT/EP02/10575 filed September 20, 2002, and claims priority therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §120.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. **Field of the Invention--**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~The invention pertains to an extruder according to the introductory clause of Claim 1.~~ The invention relates to an extruder including a barrel having an axial bore, and a cutting plate of a granulating unit at the downstream end of the barrel.

Please add before paragraph [0002] the following sub-heading:

--2. **Description of the Related Art--**

Please add before paragraph [0004] the following sub-heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please delete paragraph [0014].

Please add before paragraph [0015] the following sub-heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] — Figure 1 is perspective view proceeding from the end of the barrel, showing a barrel segment with four continuous bores arranged in a square to receive heating cartridges and with two overlapping, axially oriented bores to hold the screws, these bores lead to a channel which serves to adapt the cross section; and

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] — Figure 2 shows a barrel segment similar to that of Figure 1 in a cross-sectional plane containing the axis of the barrel and passing through two of the four continuous bores arranged in a square to hold the heating cartridges, this plane also passing through two overlapping, axially oriented bores leading to a channel which adapts the outlet-side cross section of this barrel segment, a cutting plate also being connected to the barrel segment.

Please add before paragraph [0017] the following sub-heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Please delete page 7 in entirety.

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Please add at page 8, after the heading, the following sub-heading:

-- What is claimed is: --